

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD
AGRICULTURE AND ZONING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2011 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., at the Livingston County Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Eldon Ruff, Dee Woodburn, Bill Flott, Daryl Holt, Bruce Koerner, Tim Shafer and Bob Young.

Absent: None

Others

Present: County Board Chair Bill Fairfield, County Board non-committee members John Yoder and Judy Campbell. Livingston County Farm Bureau representatives Teresa Grant-Quick, Jerry Quick and Dennis Haab. Invenergy representative Julie Fosdick, concerned citizen Rich Fox, Livingston Landfill Representatives Brian Holcomb and John Hock(CEC) and County Planning Commission Office Representative Chuck Schopp,

Mr. Ruff commented on the agenda, Daryl Holt then moved, seconded by Dee Woodburn, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the July 5, 2011 committee meeting were referred to the committee. Bob Young moved, seconded by Bill Flott that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Solid Waste Issues:

Republic Services briefed the committee on a proposal to enclose two areas with enhanced fencing or berms along with plans to construct a new building on the Livingston Landfill property that would allow for them to move their recycling operations out to Livingston Landfill. Brian Holcomb of Republic Services and John Hock from Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) were present at the meeting to present these plans. These plans included a narrative and drawings of the three main areas being proposed for improvement. Mr. Hock presented fencing plans for the hauling truck parking area. The hauling business has grown and they plan on putting slats in the fencing in this area. The roll off container storage yard on the Livingston Landfill is proposed to be screened by either extending the perimeter berm or by fencing in the area, and this fencing would also have slats in this fencing. Then Mr. Hock presented more detailed plans on the proposed recycling building. The recycling building would be moved from their Howard St. property in Pontiac out to the landfill property to allow for more consolidation of their local business operations. It was confirmed that this recycling building would just be used for the dumping of local recycling materials were they can be loaded on semi-trailers for transportation to recycling separation operations in the Chicago land area. No separation of recycling materials will take place in this building. The committee expressed their appreciation to Mr. Hock for his presentation.

A monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. The monthly information synopsis relating to Livingston Landfill report focused on gas well and gas system monitoring, and groundwater sampling events. The Streator Area Landfill synopsis also referred to gas system and water testing results. It was mentioned that the Livingston Landfill will be having an open house at the landfill on Friday August 5, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Current host fee information was also made available to the committee members.

Wind Energy Conversion Systems Update:

A mention was made of the recent newspaper article about the intention of Gamesa to begin their Minonk Wind project in Woodford County. A corporate name change for Horizon Wind was explained, since letters have been sent out to property owner's part of this proposed wind energy project area. Committee members remarked on wind turbine flicker and private airstrip negotiations in relation to wind turbines in the area of these airstrips.

Recycling Projects:

Proposed electronic recycling projects in September and October were mentioned to the committee, with details yet to be worked out. The purpose of these events is to allow the county citizens to dispose of electronic waste in an environmental manner, with it being noted that electronics will no longer be allowed to be landfilled after January 1, 2012.

Solar Energy Regulations:

The committee commented on the draft regulations handed out at the previous committee meeting. The committee members discussed a need to have more details in the violation section of these regulations. The committee then requested that a set of regulations specific to Livingston County be drafted for the committee to review. The proposed LaSalle County solar energy project was also remarked about during this committee meeting.

Livestock Facilities:

The committee was informed that the Illinois Department of Agriculture will be holding public informational hearings in regard to the Harm's proposed livestock facilities on August 4th. at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Livingston County Public Safety facility at 844 W. Lincoln St. in Pontiac. Rich Fox requested that the county board hold a separate public meeting prior to making a recommendation. Dennis Haab of the Livingston County Farm Bureau, taking a neutral standpoint, noted that the Livestock Facilities Act needs to be followed by the Illinois Department of Agricultural in that such facilities while benefitting agricultural need to be properly placed and constructed. Jerry Quick remarked about how the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency are the two primary permitting and enforcement departments pertaining to livestock confinement facilities. Rich Fox gave his opinion on the Illinois Department of Agriculture's permit authority in this matter. Concerns of the proximity of the Vermilion River, quality of life, odor issues. Comprehensive plan issues were mentioned. The committee discussed when to review this matter again, concluding to review this matter again at 5 p.m. on Thursday August 11, 2011, at the public safety complex, prior to the county board meeting.

Livingston County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

The committee members were provided with a handout about Mitigation Plan Frequently asked questions and an executive summary of the Livingston County All Hazards Mitigation Plan. The committee members agreed to review these documents prior to recommending the approval of this plan. This plan approval will be further discussed at next month's meeting.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The committee members were informed of the potential post office closings in Blackstone, Campus, Emington, Long Point and Strawn in Livingston County

Public Comment:

Judy Campbell presented the committee members with two articles pertaining to wind energy. The first article was titled “Values in the Wind: A Hedonic Analysis of Wind Power Facilities” by Heintzelman and Tuttle, dated July 16, 2011. The second article was titled “Properly Interpreting the Epidemiologic Evidence about the Health Effects of Industrial Wind Turbines on Nearby Residents”, by Carl Phillips of the Populi Health Institute, dated July 19, 2011.

Review and Approval of Bills:

None

Executive Session:

Bill Flott moved, seconded by Daryl Holt, to close regular session to go into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) – Review of closed session minutes. This motion was approved by roll call vote Ruff -Yes, Woodburn -Yes, Flott-Yes, Holt-Yes, Koerner- Yes, Shafer-Yes and Young-Yes.

Executive session began at 7:30p.m.

Regular session resumed at 7:45 p.m.

In action resulting from this executive session Dee Woodburn moved, seconded by Bill Flott, that the committee allow for the executive session minutes of the April 2, 2002, January 3, 2006, April 4, 2006, November 7, 2006, January 2, 2007, April 3, 2007, June 5, 2007 AG & Zoning Committee Meetings to be opened. With the minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting being approved for content and be opened. This motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Then Daryl Holt moved, seconded by Bruce Koerner, that the meeting be recessed until 5:00 p.m. on August 11, 2011. (With this meeting to be continued at the Livingston County Public Safety Complex, 844 W. Lincoln St., Pontiac, IL.) This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was recessed at 7:50 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional
Planning Commission